

After reviewing all of the current Petitions for Rule Making, I urge that the FCC modify code requirements as proposed in RM-10811, with one exception.

This petition would delete the requirement to pass Element 1 to obtain Technician plus Element 1 HF privileges and merge Tech and Tech Plus into a single class. It would emphasize technical content and digital modes on the written examination, extending digital mode privileges within Novice/Tech Plus sub-bands. There would be no additional HF phone privileges for Technicians. This petition would retain a 5 WPM Morse exam for General applicants and raise the Morse exam to 12 WPM for Amateur Extra, increasing the technical level on written examinations for both classes.

The one change to this petition that I support is a component of petition RM-10810. It would require that Extra class applicants pass a 15 WPM code exam and have exclusive privileges to operate in the Extra class CW sub-bands.

I believe that adoption of RM-10811, modified as suggested, would provide a means to enter and advance in Amateur Radio in a balanced and accommodating manner consistent with modern international trends. Too, it would provide incentive for those inclined to excel to the highest class within Amateur Radio in a traditional/historical manner.

I appreciate your serious consideration of my comments. Please keep me informed of all future decisions in this matter.

Respectfully,

Robert L. Norton, N5EPA